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★★★★★

Forecast: showers
(Details on page 3)

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Main Girder Nearly Severed

TUG CUTS JOHNSON BRIDGE

One Beauty of These 10 Will Be Queen

Surrounding 1958 Miss Victoria, Mary Gibson, 19, with cup, are this year's finalists in the Junior Chamber of Commerce Miss Victoria contest, from left, Gail Miller, 17; Barbara Johnson, 18; Valerie Parkin, 20; Vivi Petersen, 19; Pauline Smith, 18; Patricia Pye, 18; Hanne Kelm, 18; Crystal Burton, 20; Aria Smalley, 19; Sunny Bergman, 19. Ahead lie the finals where judging will be mainly on talent.—(Photo by Bud Kinsman)

★ ★ ★

Week For Repair

Battered, bumpy old Johnson Street bridge was hastily closed to motor vehicle traffic last night when one of its two main girders was nearly severed by the hull of the Salvage King, under tow to the scrap yard.

City authorities said traffic would be rerouted for at least a week until the extent of the damage and danger to the public was determined and repaired.

The girder was nearly smashed through at 5 p.m. by the bow of the once-proud Salvage King as the hull of the sea rescue tug was being towed by the Island Comet from Ogden Point to the Inner Harbor.

FEARED COLLAPSE

Fears were raised the bridge might collapse, but city engineer James Garnett said last night, "I don't think she is going to fall."

He said repairs would start "as soon as we determine what is required."

"We're not going to risk another Point Ellice bridge disaster," Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow, chairman of the public works committee, said in ordering the bridge closure.

The E & N railway bridge north of the span was not damaged. E & N superintendent Douglas C. Hartley said last night that today's rail-diesel train will leave the terminal at 9.30 a.m., on schedule, for its regular up-Island run.

BUSES REROUTED

B.C. Electric Colwood, Munro and Esquimalt buses were rerouted via the Point Ellice Bridge after the Johnson Street closure. Dispatchers said last night routes and schedules were being worked out.

The bridge is still open to pedestrians and can still be raised for passing ships.

City police were called out to divert heavy Friday night traffic while city works crews erected barricades at the bridge.

EMERGENCY MEETING

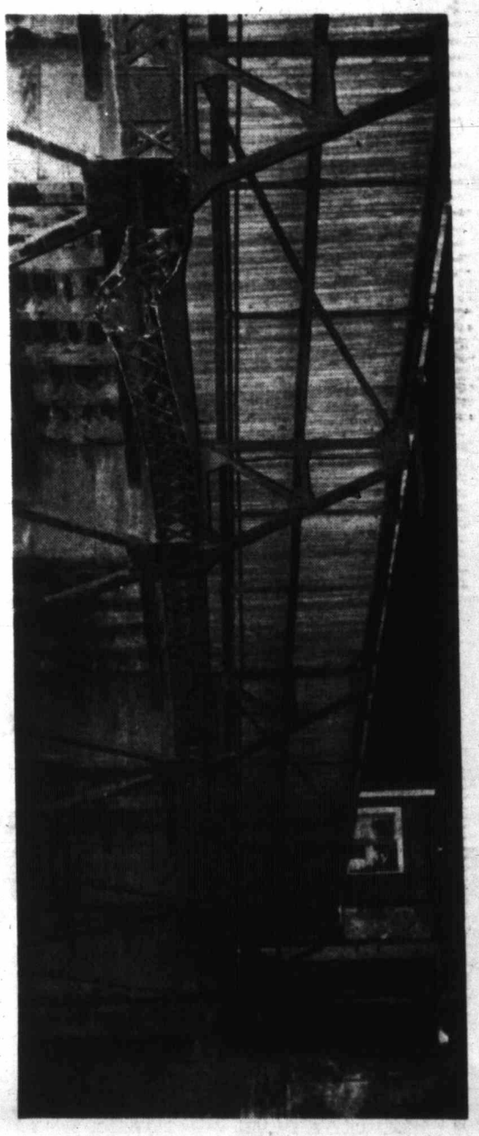
Public works committee will hold an emergency meeting early next week to take action on a report of actual damage. It will be prepared for the city engineer by qualified bridge engineers, Mr. Edgelow said.

Bridge operator Steve Carter said after the accident, "I saw them coming under. They didn't toot or call me on the radio-telephone.

"WOULD BE CLOSE"

"I knew it would be close. They had a man on the bow watching the bridge. Just short of the bridge, he waved his hands frantically, then ran towards the stern.

"I heard a crunch. The Salvage King stopped, bobbed and backed off. I put the bridge up and they carried on through."



Bridge girder, severed by tug Salvage King, is shown at upper left.—(Colonist photo)

DON'T MISS

'Freedom' Plan Charted by CCF
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'Meddling Generals Threat to Peace'
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PTA Support Urged For Sex Education
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Hollywood Shines Up Oscars for Monday
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Ottawa Curbs Shock New Canadians
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Canada Suggests UN Guard Berlin Lifeline

WASHINGTON (CP)—Canada proposed before the NATO council Friday a three-point Berlin peace plan involving the establishment of a UN guardianship over the lines of communication between free Germany and beleaguered West Berlin.

ARMS LIMIT

The proposal was advanced as a basis for discussion by Defence Minister George Pearkes as the 15-nation Atlantic Pact council wrestled with the problem of how to thwart the Soviet threat to drive the West out of Berlin.

PEARKES' IDEA

Pearkes also called upon the Western Big Three — Britain, France and the United States — to be ready to explore, in their approaching talks with the Soviets, the possibility of accepting some measure of arms limitation or redeployment of troops on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

He urged:

1. The basic UN role might be to verify that all parties were abiding by the terms of the agreement.

2. An essential part of the agreement would be a Soviet pledge binding itself and its associates to permit full freedom of access to West Berlin and the acceptance of a UN "presence" on the lines of communication into the city.

3. Any UN responsibility for West Berlin would be complementary to the present rights and obligations of the four occupying powers.

STEVE CARTER
. . . heard a crunch

★ ★ ★

Door Open

OTTAWA (CP) — The nations of NATO will not reject any reasonable proposal for ending the cold war, Prime Minister Diefenbaker said last night.

But, he added in a 10th anniversary message, alliance members will not let NATO be broken up.

U.S. Orders Fallout Study

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower has ordered a study of the effect of radioactive fallout on health.

The Atomic Energy Commission, the department of welfare and the budget bureau will complete the study in a few weeks.

Smallwood Law Tough Again

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Premier Smallwood Friday withdrew a Labor Act amendment giving the Supreme Court of Newfoundland a voice before a union could be banned by the Newfoundland cabinet.

In withdrawing the amendment, he said he did not wish to give the impression the government was backing down.

Earlier, Mr. Smallwood said Newfoundland will sue the federal works department and Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. for breach of contract.

He said the CMHC had taken from the St. John's housing authority administration of 192 rental units after Newfoundland rejected an Ottawa request to replace authority members with Conservative supporters.

FBI Confused

His Holiday Nightmare After Mixup

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A holiday turned into a near nightmare for a businessman who was mistaken for one of the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives.

"It wasn't too pleasant, I'll tell you," said Truman Pennell of Wichita Falls, Tex., as he left police headquarters after a frantic all-out manhunt had led to his arrest.

Police believed he was Frank Lawrence Sprenz, 29, a bank robber who has been on the FBI's 10 most wanted list since Sept. 10, 1958.

Pennell, 36, was arrested Thursday night after his four-passenger plane, which matched the description of one in which Sprenz has been hopping about the country, crashed nearby.

Police became even more certain that Sprenz was in the area when the plane's occupant did not arrive at a hospital for which spectators at the crash said he started.

"I just changed my mind," Pennell explained later.

He and his pilot were being given a lift into Little Rock when police, armed with shotguns, stopped them.

MLA 'Pinks' Cab-Driver, Ordered Out

TORONTO (CP)—A political argument in a taxi cab got so heated here that the cabbie ordered Arthur Reaume, Liberal member of the Ontario legislature, out of the car.

After Mr. Reaume entered, the driver began talking politics. The cab soon stopped and the driver said: "You'd better get out of this cab, buddy."

"He called me a pink-eyed socialist," the cabbie told a policeman.

"I did not," Mr. Reaume retorted. "I said it would be a bad day for Canada if the pink-eyed socialists ever took over."

The policeman told the driver: "I think you'd better take the gentleman where he's going."

God-King, Family Struggle on Remote Mountain Trail

Gruelling Trek Goes On, Lama Wins Asylum

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India Friday granted political asylum to the Dalai Lama, divine ruler of Tibet, as he travelled by horseback along a dangerous mountainside trail in the remote northeastern corner of the country.

Great excitement spread through India over news of his safe arrival. He reached India's northeast frontier Tuesday after a two-week flight with 80 of his followers from Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

Prime Minister Nehru told a cheering Parliament that the 23-year-old temporal and spiritual head of Tibet "will receive respectful treatment."

The Tibetan ruler "is quite healthy," Nehru said.

The "god-king," together with his mother, 14-year-old brother, 26-year-old sister and four cabinet ministers, rode horseback through 14,000-foot Himalayan trails through Tibet, eluding 50,000 Chinese Communist troops.

Officials here said the party should reach Towang, 18 miles south of the Tibetan frontier, by Sunday.

Towang, site of one of India's largest monasteries, is at an elevation of 10,000 feet, surrounded by thick jungle and towering peaks. Below the isolated, high-walled monastery with its 600 monks flows the Towang River.

After reaching the monastery, the refugee ruler still will face a two-week trek over mountain and jungle to the nearest rail point of Balipara in Assam. Balipara is almost 1,000 miles from New Delhi.

Official quarters here doubt that he will come to New Delhi. They expect him to be taken to a secluded hill station, where he could rest and avoid the 100-degree temperatures here.

The Dalai Lama, it was understood, will go to Tezpur or to Gauhati where he could board a plane.

Officials said it is unlikely the Dalai Lama will be permitted to remain in any area adjoining Tibet. There was talk he would protest to the United Nations against Chinese Communist suppression of his government, but he is expected to rely primarily on Nehru's advice.

The two leaders have been close friends since his visit in 1956.

India is in an embarrassing position regarding an appeal to the UN since, by a 1954 treaty, Nehru accepted that Tibet is a part of China.